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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/788,860

Applicant(s)

BARLOW, WILLIAM C.

Examiner

Muktesh G. Gupta

Art Unit

2444

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 07/28/2008, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED.

New ground of rejection, i.e. **Claims 1-4, 6-7** rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101 and **Claims 1-4, 6-17** rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

2. **Claim 5** was cancelled.

Claims 1-4, 6-17 have been examined on merits and are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. **Claims 1-4, 6-7** are rejected under, 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

- a. **Claims 1-4, 6-7** are rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 101 as being "directed to System which as disclosed in specification (par. 0028-0029) as hardware, software or a combination of hardware and software, which is neither a 'process' nor a 'machine,' but rather embraces or overlaps two different statutory classes of invention set forth in 35 U.S.C. 101 which is drafted so as to set forth statutory classes of invention in the alternative only. Id. At 1551. (See MPEP 2173.05(p)(II) PRODUCT AND PROCESS IN THE SAME CLAIM.
- b. It is recommend, that **Claim 1** and its dependent to be amended to clearly reflect a device or software of the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-4, 6-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6564261 to Gudjonsson et al., (hereinafter "Gudjonsson"), as applied to **Claims 1-4, 6-17** and further in view of US Patent Application Publication No. 20030172145 to Nguyen, John V., (herein after "Nguyen").

a. *Regarding **Claims 1-4, 6-17** Gudjonsson discloses substantially the invention as claimed. Gudjonsson does not explicitly disclose "policy manager having a configuration for processing a policy set forth in a policy document and for processing a request for a Web conferencing."*

b. *Gudjonsson discloses (as stated in col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 1-2, col. 11, lines 5-19, col. 34, lines 64-67, col. 35, lines 1-3, col. 34, lines 56-63, A system/network main function is to provide users with a simple and secure way of establishing arbitrary communication sessions with other users or services, running either over IP networks or other networks, e.g., PSTN. It also provides operators (an operator is one who operates or manages at least one cluster) a comprehensive environment in which to deploy value added services (e.g., search engine services, database services, shopping services, services for sending users stock information such as stock prices, video conferencing services which enable user(s) to set up a video conference via a video conferencing server that is external to the application, etc.) to their users and to be able to charge for their use, as well as providing them a way to link their installed base of services over to IP networks. In basic terms, aspects of the*

system/network act as a broker(s), and can broker communication services between two or more people (or their respective clients/PCs/phones), as well as broker access to value added services, some communications based--others not. Access to the services is provided either by lightweight clients, running on various operating platforms or through gateways for browser based systems, such as WAP (Wireless Application Protocol). The system/network is designed to enable easy building and operation of Value Added Services (VAS), using the user management functions, security, and authentication and charging features of the system/network as their base. Since the system/network is designed to offer accessibility and mobility, a user will be able to access his or her data and services from virtually any communication device--computer, mobile phone, handheld devices etc. ensuring a broad reach for Value-Added Services of the system/network. Many services might offer access to chargeable resources, such as the phone system, a cellular telecommunications network, an online shopping network, or the like. This calls for a way to control the access of users 7 to these resources and to away of monitoring their usage. In certain embodiments, the system/network according to this invention may support the notion of account types for users, where each account type gives access to some set of services. In this manner, control of service usage can be administered easily. For more detailed charging, each service can define its own billing policy and act accordingly. Some services might choose to simply log all activity, for later accounting, while others might dynamically monitor the user and their

current account situation. One aspect on the back-end regarding administration is the logging of information. It may be possible to log every detail regarding the operation of the system which might be pertinent to the operator. Which details are logged shall be configurable via an administration tool. It shall be possible to easily import log data from the system into other software packages for analysis and archiving. Back-end administration can be manageable at least through command-line tools or equivalent and optionally through user-interface tools. How registration of users and there accounts is handled may be decided on a per-service basis; in one case it might be through the explicit entering of data and running of administration tools by a service employee, in another it might be through a CGI script or equivalent running the administration tools with data gathered directly from the user.

c. Gudjonsson does not disclose that policy manager having a configuration for processing a policy, though Gudjonsson does disclose the Operator of the cluster is administrating, operating and managing the cluster and its services through various administrative tools for policies by configuring policies, processing policies, analyzing policies and archiving policies and implementing policies at various stages of user-operator interaction either through a human manager or through a software entity. For example, Web conference groups have a maximum size of X users which can be set by administrators of the application. Settings for each component of the back-end are preferably stored in the DB, from where the component reads them upon startup. These settings

are preferably configurable from the admin tool, which has a connection to each back-end component and notifies it of changes in settings as is necessary. FIG. 26 illustrates the admin tool's location in a cluster 1. Adding users to the application and removing users from it is handled by a separate admin tool which basically issues a new UID, then writes the user's information into the database. It shall be possible to run this administration tool from the command line, for use with CGI programs etc.

d. Nguyen does disclose, (as stated in par. 0031, lines 1-3, par. 0033, lines 1-19, par. 0147, lines 1-10, par. 075-0876, lines 1-21, par. 1078-1082, lines 1-14, Nguyen discloses system and method for designing, developing and implementing Internet Service Provider (ISP) architectures. Establishing an architectural model for the ISP architecture according to the set of design requirements may include identifying one or more core components of the architectural model and applying one or more architectural principles to the architectural model. Core components may include one or more of an operating platform, an operating environment, and one or more ISP services. The operating platform may include, but is not limited to, one or more of network equipment, server systems, and storage equipment. The operating environment may include an operating system and one or more operating environment tools and applications. The ISP services may include one or more of basic services, value-added services, infrastructure services, and operation and management services. The architectural principles may include, but are not limited to, one or

more of scalability, availability, reliability, manageability, adaptability, security, performance, and open systems. Questions in the following areas are asked: general, business-related, support, systems and network management, end-user, registration, customer care, billing system, service availability, security, demographic, networking, dialup, directory, email, Web hosting, search engine, caching proxy, Internet relay chat, FTP, Internet News, and development and staging. Internet Service Provider Configuration Guidelines describes policies, guidelines and principles that may be applied to ISP architectures, as well as services those ISPs may be expected to deliver and some principles behind the network architectures that support them. Delivering specific service levels may be achieved by one or more of, but not limited to, the following mechanisms: partitioning services, carefully managing server resources, and allocating specific levels of bandwidth to customers. In service partitioning, services may be separated according to their logic boundaries, such as Web server, application server, and database server, and then arranged in a multi-tier configuration on the available hardware. For example, there are several different types of application execution platforms including, but not limited to, CGI, JavaScript, Java servlet, and application server. It may be preferable to separate these platforms for reasons of performance, security, and feature set. For example, the CGI execution platform may preferably be separated from other application servers since this type of Web application presents specific concerns with respect to security. Therefore, CGI programs are preferably executed on their

own server or a cluster of servers dedicated to this purpose. Controlling resources within a shared server may be preferable in order to guarantee quality of service. In one embodiment, a resource manager may provide the ability to control and allocate one or more of, resources. Another capability of a resource manager may be to define hierarchical relationships between resource pools. Resources may be assigned to a parent pool that includes a number of subordinate pools, or children. The parent may be assigned resources as usual. The child pools may be assigned resources from the parent pool. This technique may be useful, for example, for creating classes of service. The parent represents the overall class of service and the children represent the individual customers that belong to the class. Systems are preferably easier to manage because of the ability to set and enforce policies that control how system resources are utilized, preferably ensuring that customers will receive the assigned service level within a shared resource environment.

e. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Gudjonsson's Operator of Cluster providing Web conferencing services, to that of Nguyen's Internet service provider Architecture which provides configuration guidelines in its implementation of providing Web services. Systems are preferably easier to manage because of the ability to set and enforce policies that control how system resources are utilized, preferably ensuring that customers will receive the assigned service level within a shared resource environment.

f. The motivation would have been for an effective and particularly for a way to more effectively utilize resources by virtue of dynamic aggregation and configuration of web conferencing services and efficiently providing the requested web conferencing services to the user device.

g. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine these two references of Gudjonsson's and Nguyen's disclosures in light of providing a system, method and program which efficiently integrates multiple web conferencing services, optimizes, coordinates and processes at the back end to, provide unified and interactive interface of invoking selected web conferencing service at the user's device.

*Together Gudjonsson and Nguyen disclosed all limitations of **Claims 1-4, 6-17** and hence, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).*

As to Claim 1, Gudjonsson teaches system for Web conference provisioning system comprising a policy manager coupled to at least two different Web conferencing platforms over a computer communications network, said policy manager having a configuration for processing a policy set forth in a policy document and for processing a request for a Web conferencing from a communicatively linked end user to select one of said Web conferencing platforms to host said Web conference (as stated in col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 1-2, A system/network according to certain embodiments of this invention includes a plurality of client applications (e.g., Win32 operable by respective users) and a back-end server system having a plurality of clusters (e.g., running on Windows NT).

A main function is to provide users with a simple and secure way of establishing arbitrary communication sessions with other users or services, running either over IP networks or other networks, e.g., PSTN.

It also provides operators (an operator is one who operates or manages at least one cluster) a comprehensive environment in which to deploy value added services (e.g., search engine services, database services, shopping services, services for sending users stock information such as stock prices, video conferencing services which enable user(s) to set up a video conference via a video conferencing server that is external to the application, etc.) to their users and to be able to charge for their use, as well as providing them a way to link their installed base of services over to IP networks.

In basic terms, aspects of the system/network act as a broker(s), and can broker communication services between two or more people (or their respective clients/PCs/phones), as well as broker access to value added services, some communications based--others not.

Access to the services is provided either by lightweight clients, running on various operating platforms or through gateways for browser based systems, such as WAP (Wireless Application Protocol).

The system/network is designed to enable easy building and operation of Value Added Services (VAS), using the user management functions, security, and authentication and charging features of the system/network as their base. Since the system/network is designed to offer accessibility and mobility, a user will be able to

access his or her data and services from virtually any communication device--computer, mobile phone, handheld devices etc. ensuring a broad reach for Value-Added Services of the system/network.

As stated in col. 11, lines 5-19, col. 34, lines 64-67, col. 35, lines 1-3, col. 34, lines 56-63, many services might offer access to chargeable resources, such as the phone system, a cellular telecommunications network, an online shopping network, or the like. This calls for a way to control the access of users 7 to these resources and to a way of monitoring their usage.

In certain embodiments, the system/network according to this invention may support the notion of account types for users, where each account type gives access to some set of services. In this manner, control of service usage can be administered easily.

For more detailed charging, each service can define its own billing policy and act accordingly. Some services might choose to simply log all activity, for later accounting, while others might dynamically monitor the user and their current account situation.

Many services might offer access to chargeable resources, such as the phone system, a cellular telecommunications network, an online shopping network, or the like. This calls for a way to control the access of users 7 to these resources and to away of monitoring their usage. In certain embodiments, the system/network according to this invention may support the notion of account types for users, where

each account type gives access to some set of services. In this manner, control of service usage can be administered easily.

For more detailed charging, each service can define its own billing policy and act accordingly. Some services might choose to simply log all activity, for later accounting, while others might dynamically monitor the user and their current account situation.

One aspect on the back-end regarding administration is the logging of information. It may be possible to log every detail regarding the operation of the system which might be pertinent to the operator. Which details are logged shall be configurable via an administration tool. It shall be possible to easily import log data from the system into other software packages for analysis and archiving.

Back-end administration can be manageable at least through command-line tools or equivalent and optionally through user-interface tools. How registration of users and there accounts is handled may be decided on a per-service basis; in one case it might be through the explicit entering of data and running of administration tools by a service employee, in another it might be through a CGI script or equivalent running the administration tools with data gathered directly from the user.

As to Claim 2, Gudjonsson teaches system of claim 1, wherein said at least two different Web conferencing platforms comprise a platform selected from the group consisting of a customer premises equipment based platform and a hosted platform

(as stated in col. 7, lines 57-67, col. 8, lines 1-2, col. 28, lines 8-11, col. 7, lines 28-31, col. 17, lines 5-31, col. 32, lines 61-67, col. 33, lines 1-2, col. 32, lines 27-29, lines 34-35, col. 2, lines 51-67, Access to the services is provided either by lightweight clients, running on various operating platforms or through gateways for browser based systems, such as WAP (Wireless Application Protocol). The system/network is designed to enable easy building and operation of Value Added Services (VAS), using the user management functions, security, authentication and charging features of the system/network as their base. Since the system/network is designed to offer accessibility and mobility, a user will be able to access his or her data and services from virtually any communication device--computer, mobile phone, and handheld devices etc.(customer premises equipment) ensuring a broad reach for Value-Added Services of the system/network. For every user 7, a certain set of data is stored. The data is kept in key/value pairs call properties. These can be global for everyone to see, private only accessible for the user him self or it can be access controlled. A set of routes where each route is enabled for a user or a group of users as defined in the buddy/contact list. A profile is complete in the sense that for every user there is a route for every mode of communication. User 7 is able to create new profiles, delete profiles, edit profiles etc. and he shall be able to set which profile is currently active. Smart routing is based on the user's currently active profile and basically means that whenever another specific user tries to contact the user using a specific mode of communication that user will be routed to a conversation endpoint or message repository which can handle that mode of

communication, based on settings in the profile. Connection Servers lie on the boundary between the unsecured Internet and the secure Intranet that hosts the cluster 1. Each CS 21 has two network interfaces, one to the unsecured Internet and one to the secure intranet. As can be seen, the user servers (US) 19 includes online status service 31, user routing service(s) (RS) 33, device handlers 35, session service 37, user property service 39, load balancing service 41, and contact list service 43. Connection servers (CS) 21 include online status service proxy 51, contact status service 53, and lots of generic proxies 54. Intra-cluster servers (ICS) 23 include lots of generic proxies 55. The framework underlying each of these servers includes a UMF 25, notification broadcasting 57, authentication 59, I/O model 61, protocol compiler 63, and resource and failure detection 65. Operation and maintenance (O & M) server(s) 64 handles system configuration (e.g., provision/assignment of users) and/or monitoring of servers/clients system includes confederated network of server clusters (group) along with any number of client terminals (customer premises equipment) that connect to the clusters. Terminals/clients are software entities running under different operating system platforms or any other device running on some communication network that can have access to the cluster. Terminals/clients can gain access (selected from the group) to any number of services running within the cluster, or to services running in other clusters. The connection between the terminals/clients and the cluster is secure, and use cryptography).

As to Claim 3, Gudjonsson teaches system of claim 1, further comprising a firewall disposed between said end user and said policy manager (as stated in col. 32, lines 31-36, col. 8, lines 18-34, Connection Servers are open to connections from the unsecured Internet and handle all client communications, they will function as firewalls of sort. Each CS 21 has two network interfaces, one to the unsecured Internet and one to the secure intranet. There is no routing performed between the two networks. External users 7 and their respective clients 11 a user's PC, mobile phone, and/or PDA can connect to services within the cluster via a special connection service, that typically runs on connection servers at the boundary of the cluster's firewall 9, and listens for connections on a specific port. Streams established through that service are secure and encrypted. As such, the cluster 1 along with all connected users 7 and clients 11 can form a virtual private network within which connections between services can be freely established. Connections can also be made between services and/or users 7 in different clusters 1, as illustrated in FIG. 1. Such connections go through a special inter-cluster service, which is also secure and encrypted).

As to Claim 4, Gudjonsson teaches system of claim 1, further comprising a demilitarized zone firewall disposed in between said policy manager and end users coupled to said policy manager of a public Internet (as stated in col. 32, lines 27-38, Connection Servers of service providers lie on the boundary between the unsecured Internet and the secure Intranet that hosts the cluster 1. Connection Servers may

see all connected clients' traffic in clear text, and also contain their own private keys in clear text. Because Connection Servers are open to connections from the unsecured Internet and handle all terminals/client (end users) communications, they function as firewalls. Each CS 21 has two network interfaces, one to the unsecured Internet and one to the secure intranet. There is no routing performed between the two networks. In certain embodiments, Connection Servers are able to log every connection and connection attempt. Log entries include such information as the date and time of day of the connection attempt, source IP number, user ID used for any authentication attempts and the reason for authentication failure).

As to Claim 6, Gudjonsson teaches system of claim 1, wherein said at least one policy specifies a platform selection based upon criteria selected from the group consisting of a number of participants to said Web conference, whether said participants are internal or external to a private network of said end user, a set of features desired for use in said Web conference, a security level required for said Web conference, and a priority of said Web conference (as stated in preceding paragraph and col.11, lines 33-64, when the user 7 launches the application, he/she is prompted for his user identity, which includes the address to his operator, and a password to be securely authenticated. At this point, the client 11 connects to the corresponding server 3 and establishes a secure connection with it. If logging on is successful, the ball opens and exposes variety of functions/services (and further as stated in col. 7, lines 57-59 , Access to the services (web conference services) is

provided either by lightweight clients, running on various operating platforms or through gateways for browser based systems) and displays status of on-line/off-line users of the system, which may be utilized by the user/client. One such function is known as a contact list. This list is maintained by the user and may include, other individuals that the users knows and has contact with and optionally addresses or IDs of the other users. The list can easily be organized by defining folders/groups based on criteria selected, as well as choose from different display modes. The user can enter new contacts, either by typing in their system/network identity or by initiating a search in a directory service, where they can search according to various criteria, such as names, e-mail, groups, status, services et cetera. Further as stated in col.7, lines 60-67, Gudjonsson teaches system/network which is designed to enable easy building and operation of Value Added Services, using the user management functions, security, authentication and charging features of the system/network as their base and is designed to offer accessibility and mobility, a user will be able to access his or her data and services from virtually any communication device--computer, mobile phone, handheld devices etc. ensuring a broad reach for Value-Added Services of the system/network to the user).

As to Claim 7, Gudjonsson teaches system of claim 6, wherein said set of features comprises at least one feature selected from the group consisting of screen sharing, slideshow presentations, streaming audio, voice over IP, audio conferencing, the use of on-premise audio equipment, audio recording, joint Web

browsing, chat and instant messaging and streaming video (as stated in col.12, lines 55-67, col.13, lines 1-19, col.24, lines 32-35, col. 25, lines 6-9, By selecting users from this contact list, a variety of functions become available to the selecting user. This information may be a combination of items that the contact has actually defined for him. In addition, a function, which becomes available to the selecting user, is the ability to send invitations to the selected contact/group from the list asking another user/group to join the inviting user in a communication session of a given type (web conferencing). There is no limitation on what kind of invitations can be sent, these elementary types include, Pages, real-time text chat session, real-time voice session and web conference, these invitation allow users to share navigation on the Web, such that the Web navigation of one user is reflected on the other user's browser. FIG. 14 is a flowchart illustrating how a first user, user #1 can establish a communications session, voice chat, text chat, web conference, etc., with a second user, user #2 using one or more clusters of the network. Apart from sending pages, a function of the routing service 33 is to act as a tool with which users can rendezvous in any kind of session, be it a telephone call, a text chat, a video conference, or web conference).

As to Claims 8, 13, Gudjonsson teaches Web conference provisioning method comprising the steps of (as stated in col. 1, lines 12-15, system and corresponding method of establishing communication session(s) (web conference) between users as a function of their availability and/or communication device(s)):

machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for Web conference provisioning, the computer program comprising a routine set of instructions which when executed by a machine causes the machine to perform the steps of (as stated in col. 38, lines 8-32, col. 34, lines 26-49, application (computer program) is aimed at users who have access to the Internet and an account with an internet service provider, using computer devices running on various operating systems platforms and have downloaded/stored/executed their application from the ISP/ Internet. The system/network is designed to features text and voice capabilities, and is a standard GUI program with a persistent connection to the server. The "web client" is a very basic client to the application, which enables users with access to a forms-enabled browser to send anyone in the community a page and provides users with a simple and secure way of establishing communication sessions with other users or services, running either over IP networks or other networks):

establishing criteria for a proposed Web conference (as stated in preceding paragraphs of claim 1 and col.8, lines 47-65, col.11, lines 44-64, by default a cluster 1 will run a basic set of services (establishing criteria for communication session) which offer the following features, allow each user 7 to have a unique identity (criteria) within all clusters, provide each user 7 the ability to connect and be securely authenticated (criteria) by the cluster 1 using that identity, provide each user 7 the ability to define arbitrary sets of data related to that identity, this data is persisted or stored in the database 13, and this data is referred to herein as "presence" data of the user, provide each user 7 the ability to publish a dynamic

status information and/or presence information related to their identity (criteria), provide each user 7 the ability to monitor the status/presence of a given set of other users 7 in the same or different cluster(s), and be notified of any change thereof; and provide each user 7 the ability to look for other user's identity(is) using queries by name/group or other useful criteria);

and, applying at least one policy to said criteria to identify a platform for hosting said proposed Web conference (as stated in col. 7, lines 35-67, col. 8, lines 1-2 and col. 3, lines 1-17, Basic services which may be provided within each cluster, include dynamic user properties, contact list and contact notification, that allow users to subscribe and be notified of the online status of other users, routing service, that allows users to send requests or invitations for communication sessions (web conference) to other users, as well as configure how these invitations are handled depending on the user's current presence information, device information (PC, PDA, Mobile platforms) and to establish an communication sessions, as text chat session, voice chat session and web conference over networks with other users/service providers).

As to Claims 9, 14, Gudjonsson teaches method of claims 8 and 13, further comprising the steps of resolving an address to said identified platform (as stated in col. 3, lines 14-27, lines 28-36, routing service allows users to send invitations to other users to establish an arbitrary communication session (e.g., text chat session, voice chat session, web conference, etc.) over arbitrary networks. The cluster and

services within it make the necessary minimum setup (resolving address) for the session to be established);

imbedding said address in an invitation to participate in said proposed Web conference (as stated in col. 3, lines 14-27, lines 28-36, clusters can forward requests to other clusters, and thus insure the connectivity of all clusters within the system and the routing service (imbedding address) for the sending/inviting user sends the invitation to the routing service for the receiving user);

and, forwarding said invitation to selected participants in said proposed Web conference (as stated in col. 3, lines 14-27, lines 28-36, routing service for the receiving user determines, according to a logic specified by the same receiving user, how the request is handled and what services are available to handle the request and forward the invitation to the receiving user's terminal/client, may forward the invitation to the receiving user's mobile phone, or may forward the invitation to the receiving user's inbox so that the user may later read the invitation).

As to Claims 10, 15, Gudjonsson teaches method of claims 8 and 13, further comprising the steps of: re-establishing said criteria; and, applying said at least one policy to said re-established criteria to identify a different platform for hosting said proposed Web conference (as stated in col. 8, lines 47-65, col. 15, lines 41-63, In certain embodiments of this invention, by default a cluster 1 will run a basic set of services. In exemplary embodiments, this basic set of services may offer the following features: 1) allow each user (or user's client) 7 to have a unique identity

within all clusters; 2) provide each user 7 the ability to connect and be securely authenticated by the cluster 1 using that identity; 3) provide each user 7 the ability to define arbitrary sets of data related to that identity (this data is persisted or stored in the database 13, and this data is referred to herein as "presence" data of the user); 4) provide each user 7 the ability to publish a dynamic status information and/or presence information related to their identity (in a simple case, this status or presence might be whether the user is currently online on his/her PC or not); 5) provide each user 7 the ability to monitor the status/presence of a given set of other users 7 (in the same or different cluster(s)), and be notified of any change thereof; and 6) provide each user 7 the ability to look for other user's identity(ies) using queries by name or other useful criteria. US User Server Maintains the user state for a given set of user(s). Keeps track of contact lists and blinded lists for these user(s). Keep track of routing for these user(s). Forwards user status changes to interested CS(s) and ICS(s). Routes pages for these user(s) via routing service RS. UMF User Maps a given local user to mapping function a specific US. Maps a user at another cluster to a specific ICS through the CID associated with the user. Monitor status of various servers in the clusters. Readjusts maps when a server fails, is removed or added, and notifies other servers as needed. Load balance US(s) and ICS(s). CS Connection Server Listens for connections from clients. Forwards status updates on connected clients to the US(s) that is handling them. Subscribes on status changes from US(s) for the contact lists of connected clients.

Forwards the status changes to the clients. Forwards paging from connected clients to user servers US(s) and vice versa).

As to Claims 11, 16, Gudjonsson teaches method of claims 8 and 13, further comprising the step of performing said establishing and applying steps responsive to a request to schedule said proposed Web conference (as stated in col. 24, lines 32-67, col. 25, lines 1-5, FIG. 14 is a flowchart illustrating how a first user (e.g., user #1) can establish a communications session (e.g., voice chat, text chat, etc.) with a second user (e.g., user #2) using one or more clusters of the network. At the first user's request, the first user's client (e.g., PC or phone) forms and sends the INVITE message to the first user's US 19 and to the first user's RS 33 at that US [step 153]. The first user's RS 33 on the first user's US runs its outgoing routing logic and determines what to do with the message [step 155]. The RS may, for example, ignore the message [step 157], but more likely decides to forward it to the second user's RS 33 at the second user's US 19 (at the same or a different cluster) [step 159]. The second user's RS 33 receives the INVITE message and runs its incoming routing logic as programmed by the second user, to determine what to do with the INVITE message [step 161]. For example, the routing log of the second user's RS 33 may cause the RS to: 1) forward the INVITE message as an SMS message to the second user's mobile phone or some other paging network device like a pager (e.g., if the second user is not currently online) [step 163], 2) forward the INVITE message to the second user's inbox [step 165], 3) forward the INVITE message directly to the

second user's currently online client (e.g., PC) [step 167], and/or 4) deliver the INVITE message to another user's RS 33 [step 169].).

As to Claims 12, 17, Gudjonsson teaches method of claims 8 and 13, further comprising the step of performing said establishing and applying steps when activating said proposed Web conference (as stated in col. 13, lines 5-18, col. 33, lines 60-67, col. 34, lines 1-7, col. 23, lines 33-44, col. 27, lines 62-66, col. 28, lines 3-7, There is no limitation on what kind of invitations can be sent. A sending user 7 is provided with at least a few elementary groups or types of invitations as well as the necessary logic to handle the corresponding communication sessions that do get established. Referring to FIG. 9, these elementary types include the following: 1) Pages: these consist of short text messages (they are the most simple type of invitations, although they do not imply an acknowledgement from the receiving end; 2) Text Chat: these invitations can establish a real-time text chat session between the users; 3) Voice Chat: these invitations can establish a real-time voice session between the users; and 4) Web Conference: these invitation allow users to share navigation on the Web, such that the Web navigation of one user is reflected on the other user's browser. As for web conferencing, this is the name given to the feature of the user 7 being able to join a text conference or a voice conference with all of the other users browsing the same web page as him/her. In web conferences, no user has ownership rights. Web conference groups have a maximum size of X users (which can be set by administrators of the application). If there are more than this

many users viewing the same web page, they will be split into groups of no more than X users. The user interface for web conferences may make it easy for users to create their own text, voice or video conference and to invite users to this conference. It shall also make it easy for the user to see which of the other users in the conference have the capability to join a voice conference or a video conference. For session initiation (i.e. inviting another user to a session, accepting an invitation, etc.), in certain embodiments a subset of the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP, [1]) may be used. The SIP methods used include, e.g., the INVITE, ACK and CANCEL methods. These suffice for users to initiate conferences and invite other users to them, or for two users to initiate a point-to-point conference. The session service 37 handles session management. The user that initiates a session (i.e. creates a conference or initiates file transfer). Other users 7 get invitations to the session, which contain directions on how to connect to the session. Entry into a session is by invitation only; and this is preferably handled by the session management server keeping a list of users that may enter the conference).

Remarks

5. The following pertaining arts are discovered and not used in this office action. Office reserves the right to use these arts in later actions.
 - a. Bansal, Amar Inder Singh et al. (US 20030120593 A1) Method and system for delivering multiple services electronically to customers via a centralized portal architecture

- b. Marchon; Donald F. et al. (US 7035899 B2) Method and system for remote conferencing via launching a web-based presentation sharing application based on code associated with the presentation sharing control
- c. Zhakov, Vyacheslav I. et al. (US 20040199580 A1) Method and apparatus for dynamic audio and Web conference scheduling, bridging, synchronization, and management
- d. Lusk, Richard et al. (US 20050097440 A1) Method and system for collaboration
- e. Gunasekar, Duraisamy et al. (US 20050034079 A1) Method and system for providing conferencing services
- f. Gregg; Richard L. et al. (US 7290288 B2) Method and system for controlling access, by an authentication server, to protected computer resources provided via an internet protocol network

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Muktesh G. Gupta whose telephone number is 571-270-5011. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MG

/William C. Vaughn, Jr./

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2444